



Daniel Sumner - Gendered Impacts of Conservation Agriculture: Exploring Men's and Women's Labor Allocation, Decision-Making Power, and Access to Information in Battambang Province, Cambodia

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Body

In spite of recent advances in agricultural technology, farmers and policy-makers are faced with the challenge of increasing agricultural productivity while implementing sustainable natural resource management. Conservation agriculture offers a means for smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods by increasing household food and nutrient security, enhancing soil health, counteracting soil degradation, and increasing agricultural productivity. Though conservation agriculture holds substantial potential, it is critical to recognize how the introduction of conservation agriculture can impact men and women differently within the household and the wider community. This presentation is based on a research-for development project introducing conservation agriculture practices to smallholder farmers in Battambang Province, Cambodia. This study uses qualitative and quantitative methodologies to identify men's and women's roles and responsibilities in household agricultural production, explore the impact of conservation agriculture on men's and women's labor allocation, and investigate men's and women's influence in decisions regarding the allocation of resources and the adoption of conservation agriculture. Preliminary findings indicate that conservation agriculture has the potential to decrease men's and women's workload and drudgery in cash crop production and generates opportunities time for other work; however, this may contribute to an increase in women's "triple workload" as they invest part of this "free time" in additional domestic and community responsibilities. Initial findings also reveal gender differences in access to and control over the allocation of resources and participation in household decision-making, and the gendered nature of information-sharing spaces.

Sessions

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